

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 HA-05 VO-05
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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4298
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
AMCONSUL MUNICH

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 16371

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, UR
SUBJECT: UKRAINIAN DISSIDENT POT VISITS KAP

REF: PORTER TO GARRISON LETTER DECEMBER 12, 1977

1. ALEKSANDR PAVLOVICH BERDNYK, A MEMBER OF THE KIEV
HELSINKI MONITORING COMMITTEE, CAME TO THE OFFICES
OF KAP ON JUNE 26 TO DISCUSS HIS HOPES TO EMIGRATE.
BERDNYK'S SPONSOR IS HIS COUSIN, DMYTRO HRUSHSTSKY,
2635 SPRUCE STREET, RIVER GROVE, ILLINOIS, 60171.
IN A BRIEF CONVERSATION, BERDNYK IMPARTED THE FOLLOWING
INFORMATION REGARDING THE HELSINKI GROUP:

--BERDNYK SAYS HE DOES NOT UNDERSTAND WHY RUDENKO
WAS TRIED AND SENTENCED AND WHY HE, BERDNYK, WHO
"WORKED CLOSELY WITH RUDENKO TO FORM THE KIEV COMMITTEE",
IS STILL FREE.

--OKSANA MESHKO IS ACTIVE IN COMMITTEE WORK, BUT AT
AGE 70 DOES NOT HAVE THE ENERGY TO DO MUCH. BERDNYK
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ASKED IF MESHKO HAD VISITED KAP AND SEEMED SURPRISED
SHE HAD NOT.

--TWO NEW MEMBERS HAVE JOINED THE COMMITTEE, PETRO
STYCHKO AND SON. THEY ARE FROM THE WESTERN UKRAINE.

--NINA STROKATA-KARAVANSKAYA IS RESTRICTED TO

RESIDENCE AT TARUSA NEAR MOSCOW AND HAS NOT BEEN ABLE TO BE ACTIVE. IT IS DIFFICULT TO VISIT HER AS SHE IS CLOSELY WATCHED.

2. BERDNYK WAS PHILOSOPHICAL ABOUT THE FUTURE, BUT HE THOUGHT THE MORE PUBLICITY HIS PROPOSAL FOR A "WORLD MOTHERS'CONFERENCE" (REF LETTER) GENERATES THE BETTER. HE CHARACTERIZED THE PROJECT AS A DISTRACTION FOR THE AUTHORITIES WHICH MIGHT HELP HIM GET OUT.

3. COMMENT: BERDNYK WAS UNUSUALLY CALM AND DETACHED IN CONSIDERING HIS SITUATION, UNLIKE OTHER DISSIDENTS/ REFUSENIKS WHO HAVE BEEN HIGHLY NERVOUS AND AGITATED DURING VISITS TO KAP. WE WERE STRUCK BY THE CONTRAST BETWEEN HIS FREEDOM AND RUDENKO'S IMPRISONMENT. WE WILL ATTEMPT TO LEARN MORE SHOULD BERDNYK RETURN TO KAP OFFICES. MATLOCK

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